Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Independent community banks in South Dakota serve as the heartbeat of every community in this nation and have established a tradition of real community involvement, consistently reinvesting deposits in the communities they serve in the form of commercial, agricultural, real estate, and consumer loans; and,

Whereas, Community state banks are strong and secure, maintaining outstanding capital levels and giving their customers peace of mind because their deposits are safe; and,

Whereas, Personal service, trust, and outstanding product offerings are the specialties of community banks in their customer relationships, making community banks extremely competitive in an ever-changing financial service marketplace; and,

Whereas, The tradition of independent banking in South Dakota is one of hometown people binding together to help their towns grow and of neighbors helping neighbors and friends helping friends succeed; and,

Whereas, South Dakota's independent community banks are indeed the economic backbone of the state; and,

Whereas, Independent community banks create a greater public awareness and understanding of the important role they play in the economy of our state and the continued role they play in its future:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 2004, as

INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY BANKING MONTH

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twentieth Day of February in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State